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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARMED ROBBER SENTENCED TO MORE THAN 81 YEARS IN PRISON

PHILADELPHIA – Andre Henry, 29, of Philadelphia, was sentenced today to 81 years and 8 months in prison for his convictions on 27 counts, including two armed bank robberies, eight Hobbs Act armed robberies, straw purchasing, carjacking, and numerous firearms offenses, announced Acting United States Attorney Laurie Magid. Henry was convicted following a jury trial in February 2007 before United States District Judge Jan E. DuBois. The case involved a violent crime spree from August 2003 through October 2003, during which Andre Henry solicited and conspired with others to commit robberies of fast food restaurants, to straw purchase assault weapons and other firearms commonly used in violent crimes, and to commit armed bank robberies. He was also convicted of solicitation to commit murder.

With the money from the fast food robberies, Henry, a previously convicted felon, paid two females, who had no criminal record, to straw purchase a total of eight firearms, which included two semi-automatic handguns, three rifles, two shotguns, and one AK-47 assault rifle. Those weapons were then used by Henry in an attempted carjacking, on August 27, 2003. During that incident, Henry shot more than 11 times at a Philadelphia Police officer while trying to get away. Henry used that same AK-47 assault rifle to rob the Pulaski Savings Bank at 2352 Orthodox Street in Philadelphia on September 18, 2003, and again on September 29, 2003. The defendant also planted a fake pipe bomb near the Frankford High School to create a diversion prior to the September 18, 2003 armed bank robbery. While the federal grand jury was investigating these crimes, Andre Henry learned of the investigation and attempted to hire someone to murder witnesses who testified before the grand jury against him. Those conversations were captured on tape by agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

“This defendant defines the term ‘armed career criminal’,” said Magid. “In his short life, he has managed to amass an astounding number of crimes that are not only violent in nature but brazen, as well. He has demonstrated a frightening disregard for the law and for human life. With this sentence, the judge has effectively put a nail in the coffin of this defendant’s criminal career. The defendant will be 111 years old before he is eligible for release from prison.”

At the sentencing hearing today, the government played an audio tape of the defendant explaining that his reason for committing these robberies and purchasing the firearms was to commit “domestic terrorism” including using explosives in public areas of Philadelphia to inflict major casualties.

This indictment is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, an initiative by the United States Attorney’s Office, Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, to identify and prosecute firearms offenders in federal court, where the defendants are likely to receive substantial sentences upon conviction.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, the Philadelphia Police Department, the Cheltenham Police Department and the Abington Police Department, and has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle T. Rotella and Assistant United States Attorney Robert K. Reed.

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